Remarks

The above amendments are being made in order to eliminate multiple dependency and improper multiple dependency before calculation of the national filing fee for the United States. Should any multiple dependency remain, that is unattended, and the Patent and Trademark Office is requested to cancel any remaining multiple dependent claims without prejudice before calculation the application filing fee.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

3. (Amended) A substrate according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein each of the identification features is similar in character to each of the other features in the said surface.

4. (Amended) A substrate according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the spacing of identification features is such as to be constant in one direction only or varied according to a special, known pattern, and similar or different regular spacings are selected for features in another direction bearing a particular spatial relationship relative to the said first direction, for example perpendicular to said one direction.

5. (Amended) A substrate according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the features are arranged in a 2D matrix in the substrate surface.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the identification feature encoded in the surface provides a primary encoding which will not appear in the electrostatic image of a photocopier.

10. (Amended) A substrate according to claim 8 [or claim 9], wherein the identification feature encoding comprises an embossing with inkless intaglio or an embossing of the surface by calendaring during manufacture of the substrate.

11. (Amended) A substrate according to [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, wherein two or more different encoding techniques are combined in the substrate.

13. (Amended) A substrate according to [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein the pattern is encoded to produce multiple iterations of a code on the substrate.

14. (Amended) A substrate according to [any one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, wherein the encoded pattern extends over selected areas which align with particular printed areas of the substrate.

16. (Amended) A surface treated substrate in accordance with [any one of claims 1 to 15] claim 1, having any lighter and darker regions visible in the surface of a treated sheet of substrate when illuminated for scanning, but not visible to the eye.

22. (Amended) A security document substrate adopted to be identifiable as such by having detectable surface features therein according to [any of claims 1 to 21] claim 1, to enable identification as aforesaid.

23. (Amended) A security document when printed on a substrate as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 22] claim 1.

24. (Amended) A method of verification of a security document according to claim 22 [or claim 23], wherein in a first step of verification a scanning process is employed to convert the image of the surface of the substrate of the document into image data

signals for controlling a printing process, and when surface encoding is detected, a second step of verification is introduced by subjecting the image date signals to an appropriate algorithm, said second step of verification, if failing, serving to downgrade or inhibit the printing process so as to prevent reproduction of the document, or at least a good quality reproduction thereof.